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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC Military Information from the Ohrdruf Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 20 May to 6 June 1952

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 1 July 1952

REFERENCES

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

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1. During the period from 20 May to 3 June 1952, almost^{all} of the Altes Lager, the barracks installation on Arnstaedterstrasse and the low barracks buildings on the Ohrdruf (M 51/J 15)-Crawinkel road were occupied to capacity. A large number of tents each with a capacity of about 12 men and all occupied was noticed in addition to the solid barracks buildings in the hutments northwest of Crawinkel. (1) Troops observed there wore red-bordered black epaulets, most of them with tank insignia. The troops in Ohrdruf and in the installations on the eastern edge of the town wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and artillery insignia and some with motor transport insignia. On 23 May, trucks carrying troops with rifles and boxes and another four trucks left the Altes Lager in Ohrdruf toward Crawinkel. Motor vehicle was observed entering and leaving the Altes Lager. (2)

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2. The following troop trains were observed in the area of the Ohrdruf troop training grounds during the period from 23 May to 3 June:
23 May. At 6 p.m., a troop train carrying 8 tanks, 13 trucks, 3 sedans, 5 sidecar motorcycles and 200 to 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank insignia on the Hochheim railroad station near Erfurt. The train was headed toward Gotha.

28 May. At 8:30 p.m., two troop trains each carrying at least 25 tanks, 5 or 6 trucks, 2 to 4 sedans and about 200 troops with red-bordered black epaulets on the Gotha railroad station headed toward Eisenach. The trains left toward Eisenach at about 9:45 p.m. (3)

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3 June. At 9:40 a.m. a troop train carrying 16 T-34/85 tanks; 30 canvas-covered trucks with scaffolds on them, probably SP guns; 9 trucks including

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sidecar motorcycles; and about 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank insignia, in the Erfurt railroad station. The train was headed toward Eisenach. (1) and (2)

3. On 5 June, an AA gun column consisting of: 27 AA guns of about 85-mm caliber; numerous trucks including and a total of about 150 troops arrived at the Ohrdruf troop training grounds. The column came from the direction of the Thuringian Mountains. (4) On 6 June, the area near the troop training grounds that many of the trucks (1) Motor vehicle in the streets of Ohrdruf included:

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- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] Comments.
- (1) The bulk of the 20th Gds Mecz Div has been in the Grawinkel area for summer training since late April. This is confirmed by the motor vehicle [REDACTED] with the troop train in Erfurt on 3 June reported in paragraph 2 and those observed in Ohrdruf.
- (2) The bulk of the 39th Gds Itz Rifle Div is permanently stationed in the Altes Lager in Ohrdruf, except for motor vehicle [REDACTED] at the Altes Lager as well as with the troop train at the Erfurt railroad station on 3 June, see paragraph 2, the present report contains no indication as to the presence of this division. However, another report confirmed various units of the 39th Gds Itz Rifle Div [REDACTED] in connection with troop trains coming from and going to Ohrdruf prior to 3 June. [REDACTED]
- (3) The identity of these trains is undetermined.
- (4) According to the caliber, the motor vehicle [REDACTED] number of guns, this column belonged to the unidentified AAA regiment of the XXVIII Gds Itz Rifle Corps which had probably returned from the Wustrow troop training grounds a short time ago. This regiment was transferred from its military post in Rudolstadt to Wustrow beginning on 16 March and, on 2 June, began to return from there. [REDACTED]

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